

August 30, 2006  
Emergency Meeting/Jail Committee

Minutes

Members present

Brady Wooten- Chairman  
Allen Sneed- Vice- Chairman  
Leon Casstevens- Commissioner  
Kim Clark Phillips- Commissioner  
D.C. Swaim- Commissioner

Others Present

Eric Williams-Interim County Manager  
James Graham- County Attorney  
Melinda Vestal-Clerk to the Board

Chairman Wooten called the special meeting to order and stated the reason for the meeting is to discuss the issues at the jail. The inmates/prisoners are being housed at other facilities and we need to get them back to cut down on costs.

Mr. Williams asked to defer from the jail to discuss some other issues. He presented a request from Andrew Mackie to use the courthouse area for a democratic rally for Roger Sharpe.

It was the consensus of the Board to allow Mr. Mackie to use the courthouse area.

Mr. Williams informed the Board that the question had come up regarding the 9-11 Service and if the offices could open later to allow the employees an opportunity to attend.

Commissioner Sneed stated he thought that was a good gesture towards the employees.

Commissioner Phillips stated those employees who do attend will be paid.

It was the consensus of the Board to allow the employees to attend the service.

Mr. Williams informed everyone the Mackie property is now cleared.

Mr. Williams reminded everyone of the meeting change due to the Labor Day holiday; Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Jail**

Chairman Wooten asked the Sheriff what would it take to bring the inmates/prisoners back to the jail?

Sheriff Cain stated the temperature has to be less than 84 degrees, the water is still undrinkable and the commodes need repairing. The jail has 29 beds; two are used for sick rooms and three are used as isolation rooms.

Chairman Wooten stated we need to get as many prisoners/inmates back as possible. Chairman Wooten questioned why were the prisoners moved now and never before.

Sheriff Cain stated it got too hot; prisoners started complaining about the heat. Sheriff Cain stated a law was passed in 1990 stating the inside temperature could not get over 84 degrees.

Major Widener stated this has been an ongoing problem which was noted in the last three inspections. He stated their office is getting estimates on the plumbing issues.

Commissioner Casstevens inquired if new pipes would take care of the water issue.

Sheriff Cain stated the water is good until it gets to the jail pipes; cannot use the water for drinking or bathing.

Harold Todd, plumber, stated he has been maintaining the jail since 1978, but the parts are no longer available and no longer repairable. He checked on a filter system for drinking water. He stated to remove the iron would cost \$1,500 to \$2,000.

Commissioner Sneed asked if it could be totally replumbed?

Mr. Todd responded it would be too costly; would have to cut through concrete walls. The water was turned off due to leaks in the wall and it would be a major undertaking.

Larry Long, Lomar Company, stated the piping has been bad for a long time. He suggested the jail use bottled water and upgrade Cell #4.

Sheriff Cain questioned the replacement of the fixtures and commodes.

Major Widener stated Mr. Long would take out the old fixtures and replace them.

Mr. Long stated it would cost \$2,500 per commode/faucet and there are four.

There was discussion on what to do to open Cell #4.

Chairman Wooten stated he spoke with Environmental Health and they informed him that a filter would take care of the iron.

Sheriff Can inquired about the shower water.

Mr. Long stated the shower water is separate from the commode and drinking water.

Chairman Wooten stated the inmates/prisoners need drinking water. He emphasized the jail needed to be operational.

Mr. Todd stated he could run a dedicated line from street for drinking water.

Commissioner Sneed discussed the cost of housing prisoners/inmates.

Chairman Wooten stated the shower water is not an issue.

Chairman Wooten directed Harold Todd and Larry Long to get their recommendations and costs to the Major, Sheriff and Mr. Williams.

Mr. Williams stated the Board needed to make sure that Mr. Todd and Mr. Long are on the same page regarding the needs.

Commissioner Phillips suggested doing a cost analysis between fixing Cell #4 and housing prisoners/inmates in other counties.

Commissioner Sneed suggested putting an air condition unit on a pad and running duct work to the first and second floor. We are on a tight time schedule and need to act on these problems.

Sheriff Cain stated he would check on the requirements for the air condition.

Mr. Long discussed installing one unit for the cell areas. He discussed the fire issue with the door and suggested installing a magnetic lock on the door. He discussed current ventilation in the cells and the cost of two motors; an estimated cost of \$10,000.

Mr. Todd stated running the dedicated waterline would cost about \$200-\$300.

Mr. Niland updated the Board on various water projects. He suggested a work session to decide how to generate revenues from the waterlines. Mr. Niland stated the meetings with some of the local industries have been very positive. He suggested scheduling a trip to Raleigh. He discussed the Golden Leaf Fund Foundation.

Mr. Niland discussed the issues at the jail. He commented on solid waste.

Mr. Niland stated that Mr. Williams is doing a good job dealing with the issues.

Mr. Niland recommended hiring a full-time Planner.

Mr. Williams recapped the issues at the jail and what Mr. Todd and Mr. Long were going to do. He stated he would get back to the Board with the costs.

Chairman Wooten thanked Mr. Long and Mr. Todd for their assistance.

**Jail Committee**

Mr. Williams reviewed the findings of the jail committee, discussed a new jail and discussed the current issues and suggested proceeding with caution.

Mr. Williams introduced Steve Allen with Solutions for Local Government whose expertise is jails.

Mr. Allen stated the average size jail for a county of our size is 65/75 beds. He commented that North Carolina is behind in jail standards. He warned the Board that when we contact architects, we need to let them know our needs not what they think we need. He reviewed key steps in preparing for a new jail.

Chairman Wooten asked how long should the facility last.

Mr. Allen responded fifty years.

Lt. Tom Helms asked if the current facility could be added on to.

Mr. Allen responded no.

Mr. Williams inquired if the county is at the point when we have to do something.

Mr. Allen stated he has seen facilities beyond this point, but it becomes very costly.

Mr. Niland stated the county could use the current revenues that are being paid out to provide housing and meals to the prisoners/inmates.

Commissioner Swaim asked to be excused.

Sheriff Cain stated per the Judge the major issues have to be taken care of by October. Sheriff Cain stated nineteen years ago the jail had an average of 4 prisoners/inmates but now we average 45 to 60 inmates/prisoners.

Chairman Wooten reviewed the issue and stated the county needs to do the right thing.

Sheriff Cain stated the right thing to do is build a new jail.

Chairman Wooten stated he would support the right plan.

Sheriff Cain suggested the county allow Steve Allen to assess our needs.

Chairman Wooten suggested doing away with the jail committee and move forward with a new jail or the committee could continue to help.

Mr. Allen stated he does not know our specific needs but would do an assessment. The committee can get perspective regarding the project and we should let the Judge know our timeline.

Mr. Williams suggested Mr. Allen present a proposal for his services.

Commissioner Sneed excused himself from the meeting.

Chairman Wooten suggested the Board, Sheriff Cain and Mr. Williams meet to review the needs of the jail.

Commissioner Phillips stated the Board is not an expert on jails.

Mr. Allen described what services he could provide.

Mr. Williams stated he would get the contract for the September 5<sup>th</sup> agenda.

There were discussions on possible properties and the old prison property.

Mr. Allen discussed an assessment plan and a master site plan.

### **Adjournment**

**\*Commissioner Phillips made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Casstevens seconded. The Board voted 3-0.**

---

Melinda Vestal, CMC  
Clerk to the Board